

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 07591 101045Z

46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 100722Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5610

C O N F I D E N T I A L S A I G O N 7 5 9 1

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, US

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REFS: A) SAIGON 7149; B) SAIGON 7294; C) USUN 2078; D) GENEVA 3628

1. WE HAVE NOTED IN PARA 6, REF C, COMMENT OF LABOISSE "THAT IOG IS MORIBUND AND NO LONGER A SUITABLE VEHICLE FOR UNICEF PURPOSES". WHATEVER THE VALIDITY OF THAT APPRAISAL MAY BE LABOISSE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ANY MORE AMENABLE TO OUR ARGUMENTS WHEN HE LEARNS THAT WE HAVE PUT ANOTHER \$2 MILLION INTO IOG AT THE SAME TIME ICRC KICKS THE USG AROUND BY REQUESTING POLL ON PRG ATTENDANCE AT WEAPONS CONFERENCE ALTHOUGH QUESTION HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED AT THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE.

2. PERSONAL COMMENTS OF UNHCR (REF D) CONFIRM IMPRESSION WE HAD GOTTEN HERE LAST WEEK FROM DEP UNHCR MACE OF UNHCR WILLINGNESS TO BECOME MUCH MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN INDO-CHINA. THEREFORE, WE HAVE A CLEAR AND SATISFACTORY ALTERNATIVE TO IOG. SHOULD WE CARE TO USE IT, THERE COULD BE NO CRITICISM RESULTING FROM SHIFTING TO UNHCR.

3. THEREFORE, SINCE WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT SERIOUS IN ITS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO PREVENT EXTENSION OF INVITATION TO PRG, WE AGAIN REITERATE THE RECOMMENDATION MADE IN REFS A AND B THAT DEPARTMENT SHOULD INSTRUCT MISSION GENEVA TO INDICATE TO THE ICRC THAT THE TENTATIVE ASSURANCE PREVIOUSLY GIVEN FOR \$2 MILLION IN FY 1975 HAD BEEN WITHDRAWN.

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MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS, INVITATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON07591
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740148-0426
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740659/aaaabywl.tel
Line Count: 61
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) SAIGON 7149; B) SAIGON 7294; C) U, SUN 2078; D) GENEVA 3628
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS
TAGS: PARM, PFOR, VN, US, ICRC, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005